



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



⑪ Publication number:

0 461 614 A2

⑫

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑰ Application number: 91109565.1

⑤① Int. Cl.⁵: G06K 11/16

⑱ Date of filing: 11.06.91

⑳ Priority: 12.06.90 JP 153330/90

㉑ Date of publication of application:
18.12.91 Bulletin 91/51

㉒ Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

㉓ Applicant: SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.
31-1, Kameldo 6-chome Koto-ku
Tokyo 136(JP)

㉔ Inventor: Morita, Yoshiyuki

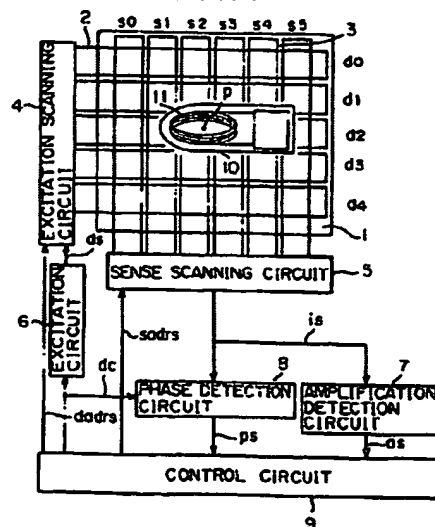
c/o Seiko Instruments Inc., 31-1, Kameldo
6-chome
Koto-ku, Tokyo(JP)

㉕ Representative: Fleuchaus, Leo, Dipl.-Ing. et al
Melchiorstrasse 42
W-8000 München 71(DE)

⑤④ Wireless coordinate reader and switch state detection system for coordinate indicator.

⑤⑦ In a wireless coordinate reader a switch circuit, which is formed by connecting a plurality of series circuits each consisting of a switch (13a, 13b, 13c ...) and a resistor (14a, 14b, 14c ...) in parallel with each other and connecting a capacitor (15) in series with one of the ends of this parallel circuit, is connected in parallel with a resonance circuit consisting of a coil (11) and a capacitor (12) to constitute a coordinate indicator. The coordinate reader comprises an amplification detection circuit (7) for detecting the amplitude of an induction signal induced on a sense line, a phase detection circuit (8) for detecting the phase, and a control circuit (9) for judging the state of switches of the coordinate indicator from the detected amplitude signal and phase signal. The amplitude of a specific induction signal is corrected by coordinate data while using it as height data. The switch state is judged after the phase signal is corrected in order to detect correctly the switch state.

FIG. 1



EP 0 461 614 A2

Detailed Description of the Invention:

[Field of Industrial Utilization]

- 5 This invention relates to a coordinate reader for inputting coordinates to an external apparatus such as a computer and more specifically, to a wireless coordinate reader which need not connect a coordinate reader main body and a coordinates indicator by signal lines.

[Summary of the Invention]

10

- In a wireless coordinate reader in which an A.C. signal is applied sequentially to a plurality of excitation lines laid down on a sense line plate, sense lines are selected sequentially and a coordinate value is determined from the induction signal which is induced on the sense line by electromagnetic coupling between three members, i.e. the excitation line, a coil and the sense line, when a coordinate indicator
15 having a resonance circuit consisting of a coil and a capacitor is placed on the sense line, the present invention is directed to accomplish a coordinate reader capable of detecting the ON/OFF state of a plurality of switches disposed on the coordinate indicator.

- To accomplish this object, the present invention connects a switch circuit, which is formed by connecting a plurality of series circuits each consisting of a switch and a resistor in parallel with each other
20 and connecting a capacitor in series with one of the ends of this parallel circuit, in parallel with a resonance circuit consisting of a coil and a capacitor to constitute a coordinate indicator, and constitutes a coordinate reader by an amplification detection circuit for detecting the amplitude of an induction signal induced on a sense line, a phase detection circuit for detecting the phase and a control circuit for judging the state of switches of the coordinate indicator from the detected amplitude signal and phase signal.

- 25 When the switch of the coordinate indicator is manipulated, the resonance frequency of the resonance circuit changes and this change causes the change of the phase of the induction signal. The present invention detects this phase change and detects the switch state.

- When a metal plate is disposed below the sense line plate, the phase of the induction signal changes also in accordance with the height of disposition of the coordinate indicator. The present invention corrects
30 the amplitude of a specific induction signal by coordinate data, uses it as height data, makes judgement of the switch state after the phase signal is corrected and detects correctly the switch state.

[Prior Art]

- 35 In a coordinate reader which mediates electromagnetic coupling between an excitation line and a sense line through a resonance circuit consisting of a coil and a capacitor and provided to a coordinate indicator, the phase of the induction signal induced to the sense line changes with a resonance frequency of the coordinate indicator.

- The resonance frequency of the coordinate indicator can be changed, for example, by connecting a
40 series circuit of a switch 107 and a second capacitor 108 in parallel with a resonance circuit of a coil 105 and a first capacitor 106 as shown in Fig. 14.

- The coordinate indicator is constituted as described above, the excitation lines 102 and the sense lines 103 are disposed so as to cross orthogonally one another and to constitute a sense line plate 101, an A.C. signal is applied as an excitation signal to the excitation line 102 and the induction signal induced on the
45 sense line 103 is observed.

- The coordinate indicator 104 is placed on the sense line plate 101 and the switch 107 is turned ON/OFF. When the switch 107 is OFF, the induction signal and the excitation signal have a predetermined phase difference due to the effect resulting from electromagnetic coupling and to the circuit characteristics. When the switch 107 is ON, the second capacitor 108 is connected in parallel with the resonance circuit, so
50 that the resonance frequency changes to a lower frequency side and the phase of the induction signal is much more delayed than at the time of OFF. The state of the switch can be judged by detecting this phase delay.

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

55

- In the general structures of the coordinate readers, a circuit substrate or the like is disposed often below the sense line plate and a shield plate consisting of a metal plate is disposed in most cases between the sense line plate and the circuit substrate in order to cut off the noise.

If the metal plate is disposed below the sense line plate, the inductance of the coil of the coordinate indicator is affected by it. The inductance of the coil changes in accordance with the height at which the coordinate indicator is placed or in other words, the distance between the coordinate indicator and the shield plate. This change of coil inductance affects the phase of the induction signal.

5 This becomes a problem for the system which judges the state of the switches of the coordinate indicator by the change of the phase of the induction signal. Since the phase difference between the switches becomes inevitably smaller when a greater number of switches are to be detected, the change of the phase due to the height cannot be neglected.

10 The present invention is completed in order to solve the problem with the prior art technique described above.

A main object of the present invention is to achieve a wireless coordinate reader which need not connect a coordinate reader main body and a coordinate indicator by signal lines and which can detect the ON/OFF state of a plurality of switches disposed in the coordinate indicator.

15 When the object of the invention is described in further detail, the present invention is directed to accomplish a wireless coordinate reader which corrects the fluctuation of the phase due to the influences of a metal plate disposed below a sense line and which can detect correctly the switch state.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

20 In order to solve the problems described above, the present invention provides a wireless coordinate reader which comprises a sense line plate having a plurality of excitation line groups and a plurality of sense line groups superposed and arranged on the sense line plate; a coordinate indicator including a resonance circuit consisting of a coil and a first capacitor, and a switch circuit connected in parallel with the resonance circuit, and switch circuit being constituted by connecting one or a plurality of series circuits
25 each consisting of a switch and a resistor, in parallel with one another and by connecting a second capacitor in series with one of the ends of the parallel circuit; an amplification detection circuit for detecting an amplitude signal of the induction signal which is induced on the sense line groups when an A.C. signal having a frequency in the proximity of the resonance frequency of the resonance circuit of the coordinate indicator is applied to the excitation line groups under the state where the coordinate indicator is placed on
30 the sense line plate; a phase detection circuit for receiving the A.C. signal applied to the excitation line groups and the induction signal induced to the sense line groups, detecting the phase of the induction signal and outputting it as a phase signal; and a controller for controlling each component of the coordinate reader, receiving the amplitude signal and the phase signal, correcting height data extracted from the amplitude signals by the coordinate, data calculated on the basis of the amplitude signal, correcting said
35 phase signal on the basis of the corrected height data, and judging the state of switches of the coordinate indicator from the corrected phase signal.

In the wireless coordinate reader having the construction described above, the controller is provided with processing for selecting the excitation line groups and the sense line groups, and receiving the amplitude signal from the amplification detection circuit and the phase signal from the phase detection
40 circuit; processing for calculating coordinate data of the position of the coordinate indicator on the basis of the inputted amplitude signal; processing for extracting an amplitude signal of an induction signal induced to a sense line having a specific positional relation with the position of the coordinate indicator from the amplitude signal as a height detection signal; processing for correcting the height detection signal by the coordinate data and calculating height data of the position of the coordinate indicator; processing for
45 extracting a phase signal of an induction signal induced to a sense line having a specific positional relation with the position of the coordinate indicator from the phase signal, as a switch detection phase signal; processing for correcting the switch detection phase signal by the height data and calculating a switch phase signal; and processing for judging the state of switches of the coordinate indicator by the switch phase signal.

[Function]

55 In the coordinate reader described above, the induction signal is generated on the sense line if the coordinate indicator is placed in the proximity of the selected excitation line and sense line during the process in which the A.C. signals as the excitation signals are sequentially applied to the excitation line group and the sense line group is selected.

If the switch of the coordinate indicator is not pushed, the phase of the induction signal has a predetermined phase difference from that of the excitation signal. If the switch is pushed, the capacitor is

connected in parallel with the resonance circuit through the resistor connected in series with the pushed switch and the resonance frequency changes to a lower value.

Inputting the induction signal induced to the sense line, the amplification detection circuit detects the amplitude signal and the phase detection signal detects the phase signal. The control circuit first calculates the coordinate data on the basis of the amplitude signal and the correct the height data extracted from among the amplitude signal by the coordinate data. Furthermore, it corrects the phase signal by the corrected height data and judges the switch state by the phase data after correction. In this manner, correct detection of the switch state can be made without being affected by the height.

10 Brief Description of the Drawings:

- Fig. 1 is a configuration of a first embodiment of a wireless coordinates reader in accordance with the present invention;
- Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a sense line plate;
- 15 Fig. 3 is a configuration of a phase detection circuit;
- Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram of a coordinates indicator;
- Fig. 5 is a flowchart of processing of a control apparatus;
- Fig. 6 is a generation timing chart of an induction signal;
- Fig. 7 is a distribution diagram of coordinates data Ox ;
- 20 Fig. 8 is a distribution diagram of height detection signals;
- Fig. 9 is an explanatory diagram of a conversion table of the height detection signals;
- Fig. 10 is a timing chart of a phase detection operation;
- Fig. 11 is a distribution diagram of switch detection phase signals;
- Fig. 12 is a circuit diagram of a second embodiment of the coordinates indicator;
- 25 Fig. 13 is a configuration of a third embodiment; and
- Fig. 14 is an explanatory diagram of a conventional switch detection technology.

[Embodiment]

30 (Construction of coordinate reader by first embodiment)

Hereinafter, a first embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Figs. 1 to 11.

First of all, the construction will be explained. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 represents sense line plate, and excitation line group 2 and sense line group 3 are laid down. The excitation line group 2 and the sense line group 3 constitute turn-back loops and are aligned equidistantly with one another. In the first embodiment, the excitation line group 2 and the sense line group 3 are disposed in such a manner as to cross one another at right angles.

Though not shown in Fig. 1, a metal plate 21 is disposed below the sense line plate 2 while sandwiching a spacer 20 between them as shown in the sectional view of the sense line plate of Fig. 2. This is a shield plate for eliminating the influences of a circuit substrate 22 which is disposed further therebelow.

Reference numeral 4 represents an excitation scanning circuit and each excitation line of the excitation line group 2 is connected to this circuit. The excitation scanning circuit 4 consists of a plurality of electronic switching devices such as analog switches and is constituted so as to provide the excitation signal ds supplied from a later-appearing excitation circuit 6 to the selected one of the excitation lines.

45 Reference numeral 5 represents a scanning circuit, to which each sense line of the sense line group 3 is connected. It consists of electronic switching devices in the same way as the excitation scanning circuit 4, selects one of the sense lines and connects it to later-appearing amplification detection circuit 7 and phase detection circuit 8.

Reference numeral 6 represents an excitation circuit. It receives an excitation clock dc from a later-appearing control circuit 9, shapes its waveform and amplifies and outputs it as an excitation signal ds .

Reference numeral 7 represents the amplification detection circuit described above which amplifies and detects an induction signal induced to the sense line group 3 and outputs an amplitude signal as of the induction signal.

55 Reference numeral 8 represents the phase detection circuit for detecting a phase signal ps of the induction signal is . Its detailed structural view is shown in Fig. 3. Reference numeral 81 represents an amplification circuit and 82 is a comparator. The induction signal is from the sense scanning circuit 5 is inputted to the amplification circuit 81. The output of the comparator 82 is connected to one of the inputs of an exclusive-OR circuit 83. An excitation clock dc is inputted to the other input of the exclusive-OR circuit

83 and its output is connected to an integration circuit 84 consisting of a resistor and a capacitor. This circuit converts the excitation clock dc to a reference phase signal and detects the phase of the induction signal as a voltage signal charged to the integration circuit 84.

The construction of the phase detection circuit 8 shown in this embodiment is a circuit which detects the difference of the phase of the induction signal is from the excitation clock dc and cannot detect advance and delay. However, freedom in setting of the reference signal for phase detection, circuit characteristics, and the like, can be improved as design items and it is believed that the induction signal exhibits the advance and delay behaviours in comparison with the reference signal depending on design. In such a case, a circuit for detecting the advance and delay of the phase may be disposed. This circuit can be accomplished easily. The construction of the phase detection circuit is not an essential subject matter of the present invention. In short, it may be the circuit which detects the phase difference between the two signals and the invention is not limited to this circuit.

Explanation will be continued by turning back once again to Fig. 1. The control circuit 9 controls each unit, receives and calculates each signal and determines the coordinates value and the state of the switches. It provides a drive address dadrs for designating the excitation line, which is to be selected, to the excitation scanning circuit 4 and a sense address sadrs for designating the sense line, which is to be selected, to the sense scanning circuit 5. It receives the amplitude signal as and the phase signal ps for calculating the coordinates value and the switch state. This control circuit 9 is implemented by a microprocessor and each operational processing is executed by a program.

Reference numeral 10 represents a coordinate indicator and its circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 4. A coil 11 and a first capacitor 12 together form a resonance circuit. The resonance frequency of this resonance circuit is set to a value near the frequency of the excitation clock dc. It need not always be equal to the excitation block.

A switch 13a and a resistor 14a are connected in series and constitute one sub-switch circuit. This embodiment uses a normally-open type switch as the switch 13 in order to deviate the resonance frequency towards the lower side when the switch 13 is pushed, as will be described later in further detail. A plurality of sub-switch circuits are connected in parallel and a second capacitor 15 is connected in series with one of the ends of the parallel circuit to form a switch circuit. This switch circuit is connected in parallel with the resonance circuit described above.

The resistors of the sub-switch circuits have different values so that the change quantity of the phase becomes different when each switch is pushed. However, the same value may be used naturally when the same meaning is provided to the plurality of switches.

The state where a plurality of switches are pushed simultaneously can be detected, too, by employing suitable constants.

(Re: Scanning of coordinate reader and operation till coordinate data calculation)

Next, the operation will be explained. It is the control circuit 9 that controls the coordinate reader and the control circuit 9 executes the processing shown in the flowchart of Fig. 5. To begin with, the operation of selecting the excitation line group 2 and the sense line group 3 and the coordinate data calculation operation will be explained.

The control circuit 9 outputs the drive address dadrs and selects one of the excitation lines (step 1). Accordingly, the output of the excitation circuit 6 is connected to the selected excitation line and this excitation line generates an A.C. magnetic field. While the control circuit 9 selects one excitation line, it outputs the sense address sadrs and selects sequentially the sense line group 3 (step 2). The selected sense line is connected to the amplification detection circuit 7 and to the phase detection circuit 8.

In the flowchart shown in Fig. 5, the sense line group 3 is selected sequentially after the excitation line group 2 is decided but this sequence may be reversed. In such a case, the sequence of step 4 and step 5 in Fig. 5 is reversed, as well.

When the coordinate indicator 10 does not exist on the sense line plate 1, no signal is induced to the selected excitation line because the excitation line group 2 and the sense line group 3 have the orthogonally crossing relation. When the coordinate indicator 10 is placed on the sense line plate 1, however, the induction signal is induced to each sense line of the sense line group 3 in accordance with the positional relation between the sense line plate 1 and the coordinate indicator 10. This is due to the effect of electromagnetic coupling between the three parties, that is, the excitation line, the coil 11 and the sense line.

Fig. 6 shows the induction signal is as the timing chart of scanning. It shows the case where the excitation line group 2 is scanned from the upper portion to lower portion of the drawing and the sense line

group 3 is scanned from the left to right of the drawing, taking Fig. 1 as an example. In Fig. 1, the position p of the coil 11 exists in the region where the excitation line $d2$ and the sense line $s2$ cross each other.

If the excitation line $d0$ and the sense line $s0$ are selected or in other words, if their crossing region is far apart from the position p of the coil 11, the induction signal is is not observed. As the crossing region of the excitation line and the sense line comes closer to the position p of the coil, the induction signal is becomes greater and becomes maximal when the excitation line $d2$ and the sense line $s2$ are selected. The induction signal is exhibits the distribution such as shown in the timing chart of Fig. 8.

The induction signal is is converted to the amplitude signal as by the amplification detection circuit 7 and to the phase signal ps by the phase detection circuit 8. The magnitudes of these signals are read by the control circuit 9 (step 3). The input of the control circuit 9 is an A/D conversion circuit and reads these signals as digital quantities.

The control circuit 9 repeats the processing described above for the range in which the induction signal necessary for calculating the coordinate data are obtained such as five each excitation lines and sense lines (steps 4 and 5). This operation is called "scanning". Additionally, the scanning range is not limited to five each lines.

When one scanning operation is completed, calculation of the coordinate data (step 6) is conducted by the following method. The control circuit 9 detects the amplitude signals of the signals isp , $isx1$, $isxh$, $isy1$, $isyh$ shown in the timing chart of Fig. 6 among the amplitude signals as that are read and calculates the coordinate data of the position at which the coordinate indicator 10 is placed in accordance with following formula (1):

$$Qx = \frac{(isp - isx1) - n}{(isp - isxh)}$$

where $isx1 > isxh$,

n is a constant and

$$Qx = \frac{(isp - isxh) \cdot n}{(isp - isx1)}$$

where $isxh > isx1$

(formula 1)

Though the formula 1 represents one axis of the X-Y coordinate system, it can likewise be applied to the second axis. The following explanation will be given also on only one axis.

The characteristics of the value Qx of the formula 1 will be explained with reference to Fig. 7. First of all, when the coil 10 is placed at the center of a certain sense line (Fig. 7(a)), the induction signals $isx1$ and $isxh$ on both adjacent sides of isp are equal to each other; hence, $Qx = n$ from the formula 1. When the coil 10 moves and reaches the position between the sense line which induces isp and the sense line which induces $isxh$ (Fig. 7(b)), isp and $isxh$ are equal to each other; hence, $Qx = 0$ from the formula 1. Namely, Qx takes the value between n and 0 while the coil 10 moves from the center of a certain sense line to the boundary with the adjacent sense line.

This relation exhibits the opposite tendency on the right and left sides with the center of the sense line being the boundary and the same tendency is exhibited for each sense line. In other words, the relation represents the information at which position between the sense lines the coil 10 exists. This information is hereby called "coordinate data".

Incidentally, the position on the sense line plate as a whole can be determined from a sense line number and from the coordinate data obtained hereby, though this is not the gist of the present invention, and it is used as the coordinates value.

(Re: Operation for calculating height data)

Next, the operation for calculating height data will be explained.

First of all, the terms will be explained briefly in order to avoid any confusion of the following explanation. In the following explanation, the term "height detection signal" means the signal before correction by position is made and the term "height data" means the signal after correction by position is made.

6 To begin with, the control circuit 9 extracts the amplitude data of the induction signal isp used for calculating the coordinate data from the amplitude signals as of the induction signals inputted during the scanning operation and uses it as the height detection signal. (step 7)

The induction signal isp in this case can be defined as the induction signal of the sense line which is the nearest the coordinate indicator 10. This signal is an example of "the induction signal induced to the
10 sense line having a specific positional relation with the position at which the coordinate indicator is placed" which is described in the scope of claim and is not particularly limited to isp . For example, $isx1$, too, has a specific relation with the coordinate indicator and the sense line inducing this signal and this is the signal whose magnitude changes according to the position at which the coordinate indicator is placed and to the height. Similarly, this signal can be used as the height detection signal.

15 When the amplitude signal of the induction signal isp is employed as the height detection signal, the magnitude of the height detection signal becomes a function of the position and height of the coil inside the sense line as shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 8(a) shows the relation between the coil position and the height detection signal when height is kept constant. As shown in the drawing, the magnitude of the height detection signal exhibits the tendency such that it becomes maximal when the coil is at the center of the sense line, and
20 drops gradually as the coil moves to the peripheral portions of the sense line. Fig. 8(b) shows the relation between the coil height and the height detection signal when the position is kept constant. It is obvious without any explanation that the height detection signal drops as the coil position becomes higher. Thus, the height detection signal cannot be used without any modification the information representing the height.

On the other hand, the coordinate data have the relation shown in Fig. 7. Since the coordinate data and
25 the height detection signal have a predetermined relation with respect to the position inside the sense line, it is possible to eliminate the influences of the position on the height detection signal by correcting the height detection signal by the coordinate data. This is a very important processing here.

More specifically, as the coil moves toward the peripheral portions of the sense line, both the coordinate data Qx and height detection signal tend to decrease. Therefore, processing is made such that the
30 decrement of the coordinate data Qx is corrected and added to the height detection signal. Conversely, the increment of the coordinate data at the center of the sense line is corrected and subtracted from the height detection signal to give the same result.

The relation between the coordinate data and the correction quantity of the height detection signal is complicated. Therefore, a conversion table from the coordinate data to the correction quantity is employed
35 to perform the processing. Fig. 9 is an explanatory diagram of the conversion table of the height detection signal. First of all, the relation between the coordinate data and the correction quantity is examined by experiments and the result is stored in the form of the conversion table. This conversion table is retrieved by the coordinate data calculated in step 6 in order to obtain the correction quantity. This correction quantity is added to, or subtracted from, the height detection signal and the result is used as the height
40 data. (step 8)

Fig. 9 shows an example of the conversion table when $n = 255$ in the formula 1 for calculating the coordinate data Qx . In this table, the decremented quantity of the height detection signal in proportion to the movement distance of the coil 10 from the center of the sense line toward its peripheral portions is registered as the correction quantity. It will be assumed, for example, that the coil 10 moves to the far
45 peripheral portion of the sense line and $Qx = 20$ is obtained as the coordinate data. By use of this conversion table, the correction quantity corresponding to $Qx = 20$ is 27 and this value is added to the height detection signal.

(Re: Operation for judging the switch state)

50 Next, the operation for judging the switch state will be explained.

Here, the terms will be explained once again briefly. In the following explanation the term "switch detection phase signal" means a signal before correction by height is effected and the term "switch phase data" means a signal after correction by height is effected.

55 The control circuit 9 performs scanning of the sense line plate 1 as described already. During the scanning, the induction signal is is inputted to the phase detection circuit 8 and is converted to the phase signal ps .

The operation of the phase detection circuit 8 will be explained with reference to the timing chart of Fig.

10. In the drawing, dc is the excitation clock, ds is the excitation signal and is is the induction signal. When no switch of the coordinates indicator 10 is pushed, the induction signal is is induced while having a predetermined phase difference with respect to the excitation signal ds.

The process in which the induction signal is is processed will be explained. First, the induction signal is is amplified by the amplification circuit 8 inside the phase detection circuit 8 and is converted to a square wave ip by the comparator 82. It becomes thus an induction signal shaped wave ip. The induction signal shaped wave ip and the excitation clock dc are phase-detected by the exclusive-OR circuit 83 to provide a detection signal pp. The detection signal pp is converted to a D.C. signal by the integration circuit 84 to provide a phase signal ps.

When one of the switches of the coordinate indicator 10 is pushed, the capacitor is connected in parallel with the resonance circuit through the resistor which is connected in series with the pushed switch. Therefore, the resonance frequency of the resonance circuit changes to a lower frequency side. This change works in the direction of delaying the phase of the induction signal is. In Fig. 10, the induction signal ish is a signal produced when one of the switches is pushed and represents that its phase is delayed from the phase of the induction signal is when the switch is not pushed. This signal is converted similarly to the phase signal psh by the phase detection circuit 8. As is obvious from the operation of the circuit, the magnitude of the phase signal psh is greater than that of the phase signal ps and it can be thus understood that the phase change can be detected.

During the scanning processing, the control circuit 9 performs A/D conversion of the phase signal ps and acquires its magnitude. Then, the control circuit 9 adopts the phase signal ps generated when the signal isp, which is used for calculating the coordinates, is generated and shown in Fig. 6, as the switch detection phase signal as the fundamental data for judging the switch state. (step 9)

The timing at which the switch detection phase signal ps is employed is not limited to the case described above where the signal isp occurs. Since phase detection is possible so long as the induction signal is generated, sampling may be made at a specific timing. In view of S/N, however, it is preferred to detect the phase of isp which is the greatest induction signal.

As described in the paragraph of [Problems to be Solved by the Invention], however, the switch detection phase signal extracted in the manner described above is a signal which is affected by the height of the coil. More specifically, as the height of the coil becomes greater, inductance of the coil increases and the resonance frequency of the resonance circuit changes to a lower frequency side, so that the phase tends to delay. This tendency is schematically shown in Fig. 11. The drawing shows schematically the change of the phase when the height is changed while several switches are kept pushed.

Since the coil height data are obtained already in step 8, the switch detection phase signal is corrected in accordance with the data so that this signal is not affected by the height. This is a very important processing in this case.

The relation between the height data and the correction quantity of the switch detection phase signal is complicated in the same way as the height data conversion processing and for this reason, a conversion table is employed to accomplish the relation in the same way as before. Though the detail is not given, the correction quantity of the phase change due to the height is obtained from the conversion table by the height data and is added to, or subtracted from, the switch detection phase signal and the result is used as the switch phase data. (step 10)

The switch position obtained by the processing described above is the data in which the change of the phase due to the height is corrected and which reflects only the switch state of the coordinate indicator. The magnitude of the switch phase data is changed when the switch of the coordinate indicator 10 is pushed. The control circuit 9 judges the switch state by comparing this data with the comparison value of phase judgement. (step 11)

(Coordinates reader by the second embodiment)

The coordinates indicator in the first embodiment uses the normally-open switches but the indicator can be constituted by use of normally-closed switches, as well. Fig. 12 shows the circuit diagram of the coordinates indicator in the second embodiment. Construction of the coordinate reader are the same as that of the first embodiment but part of the operation is different.

The switches 33a, 33b, 33c ... of the coordinate indicator 30 are all normally-closed switches. When none of them are pushed, each switch is closed and the second capacitor 35 is connected in parallel with the resonance circuit through all the resistors 34a, 34b, 34c ... connected in series with the switches. It means that the second capacitor 35 is connected with the lowest resistance value.

Under this state the induction signal is is induced with a predetermined phase difference with respect to

the excitation signal ds.

When one of the switches is pushed, the resistor connected in series with this pushed switch is cut off from the resonance circuit and the resistance value of the switch circuit changes in an increasing direction. Therefore, the resonance frequency of the resonance circuit changes to a higher frequency side. This change affects the direction in which the phase of the induction signal is advanced.

This advance change of the phase is detected by the phase detection circuit 8 and the control circuit makes judgement of the switches in the same way as the operation explained in the first embodiment.

(Coordinate reader by a third embodiment)

10

The gist of the present invention resides in that the frequency of the resonance circuit of the coordinate indicator is changed by manipulating the switches and the change of the phase of the induction signal that occurs due to electromagnetic coupling between the three members, that is, the excitation line, the coil and the sense line is detected so as to judge the switch state of the coordinate indicator. Accordingly, the arrangement of the excitation lines and sense lines and the scanning method are not limited to those of the first embodiment.

Fig. 13 is a configuration of the third embodiment. As shown in the drawing, the excitation line group 52 does not cross orthogonally the sense line group 3 but are disposed in the same direction. Furthermore, both of them overlap partially with one another. The rest of the configuration is the same as that of the first embodiment.

When one excitation line is selected by the excitation circuit 4 and the excitation signal is applied thereto and at the same time, when one sense line overlapping this selected excitation line is selected on the sense line plate 51 having such a configuration, the induction signal develops on this sense line due to electromagnetic coupling with the excitation line.

The difference of this embodiment from the first embodiment is that the induction signal is generated even though the coordinate indicator 10 does not exist on the sense line plate 51. When the coordinate indicator 10 is placed on the sense line plate 51, however, coupling becomes stronger and a greater induction signal is generated. Accordingly, the coordinate value can be determined by observing the amplitude of the induction signal and the phase signal can be detected, too.

The induction signal is the sum of the signal which couples through the coil and the signal which couples directly with the excitation line. Therefore, the reference value of the phase signal becomes different from that of the first embodiment. However, whereas the phase of the signal which couples directly with the excitation line is constant, the phase of the signal which couples through the coil changes with the switch state as before, and the switch state can be judged accordingly from the phase signal in the same way as in the first embodiment.

[Effect of the Invention]

In accordance with the present invention as described above, the coordinate indicator is constituted so that the capacitor is connected in parallel with the resonance circuit through the resistors when any switch is pushed and the phase of the induction signal due to electromagnetic coupling between the excitation line group, the coordinate indicator and the sense line group is changed by manipulating the switches. This phase change is detected by the phase detection circuit so that the switch state can be judged by the control circuit. Accordingly, it becomes possible to accomplish a wireless coordinate reader capable of detecting the state of a plurality of switches disposed on the coordinate indicator without connecting the coordinate indicator and the coordinate reader by signal lines.

The present invention corrects the change of the phase signal made due to the height of the coordinate indicator by means of height data which is based on the original amplitude signal. Therefore, the present invention can accomplish a wireless coordinate reader capable of detecting accurately the state of a plurality of switches without being affected by the height.

55

Bezugszeichenliste

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 | sense line plate | 51 | 101 |
| 2 | excitation line group | 52 | 102 |
| 3 | sense line group | 53 | 103 |
| 4 | excitation scanning circuit | 54 | 104 |
| 5 | sense scanning circuit | 55 | 105 |
| 6 | excitation circuit | 56 | 106 |
| 7 | amplification detection circuit | 57 | 107 |
| 8 | phase detection circuit | 58 | 108 |
| 9 | control circuit | 59 | 109 |
| 10 | coordinate indicator | 60 | 110 |
| 11 | coil | 61 | 111 |
| 12 | first capacitor | 62 | 112 |
| 13 | switch | 63 | 113 |
| 14 | resistor | 64 | 114 |
| 15 | second capacitor | 65 | 115 |
| 16 | | 66 | 116 |
| 17 | | 67 | 117 |
| 18 | | 68 | 118 |
| 19 | | 69 | 119 |
| 20 | spacer | 70 | 120 |
| 21 | metal plate | 71 | 121 |
| 22 | substrate | 72 | 122 |
| 23 | | 73 | 123 |
| 24 | | 74 | 124 |
| 25 | | 75 | 125 |
| 26 | | 76 | 126 |
| 27 | | 77 | 127 |
| 28 | | 78 | 128 |
| 29 | | 79 | 129 |
| 30 | | 80 | 130 |
| 31 | | 81 | 131 |
| 32 | | 82 | 132 |
| 33 | switch | 83 | 133 |
| 34 | resistor | 84 | 134 |
| 35 | capacitor | 85 | 135 |
| 36 | | 86 | 136 |
| 37 | | 87 | 137 |
| 38 | | 88 | 138 |
| 39 | | 89 | 139 |
| 40 | | 90 | 140 |
| 41 | | 91 | 141 |
| 42 | | 92 | 142 |
| 43 | | 93 | 143 |
| 44 | | 94 | 144 |
| 45 | | 95 | 145 |
| 46 | | 96 | 146 |
| 47 | | 97 | 147 |
| 48 | | 98 | 148 |
| 49 | | 99 | 149 |
| 50 | | 100 | 150 |

Bezugszeichenliste

65

as amplitude signal
 is induction signal
 dc excitation dock

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------------------|
| | <u>ps</u> | phase signal |
| | <u>ds</u> | excitation signal |
| | <u>dadrs</u> | drive addren |
| | <u>sadrs</u> | sense addren |
| 5 | <u>isp</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>isxh</u> | incuction signal |
| | <u>isxl</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>isyi</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>isyh</u> | induction signal |
| 10 | <u>ip</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>pp</u> | detection signal |
| | <u>ish</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>iph</u> | induction signal |
| | <u>pph</u> | induction signal |
| 15 | <u>psh</u> | phase signal |

Claims

1. A wireless coordinate reader comprising:
 - a. a sense line plate having a plurality of excitation line groups and a plurality of sense line groups superposed and arranged thereon;
 - b. a coordinate Indicator including a resonance circuit consisting of a coil and a first capacitor, and a switch circuit connected in parallel with said resonance circuit, said switch circuit being constituted by connecting one or a plurality of series circuits each consisting of a switch and a resistor in parallel with one another and by connecting a second capacitor in series with one of the ends of said parallel circuit;
 - c. an amplification detection circuit for detecting an amplitude signal of the induction signal which is induced on said sense line groups when an A.C. signal having a frequency in the proximity of the resonance frequency of said resonance circuit of said coordinate Indicator is applied to said excitation line groups under the state where said coordinate Indicator is placed on said sense line plate;
 - d. a phase detection circuit for receiving said A.C. signal applied to said excitation line groups and said induction signal induced to said sense line groups, detecting the phase of said induction signal and outputting it as a phase signal; and
 - e. a controller for controlling each component of said coordinate reader, receiving said amplitude signal and said phase signal, correcting height data extracted from said amplitude signals by the coordinate data calculated on the basis of said amplitude signal, correcting said phase signal on the basis of the corrected height data, and judging the state of switches of said coordinate indicator from the corrected phase signal.
2. Method of judging the state of switches of a coordinate indicator in a wireless coordinate reader according to claim 1, wherein said control circuit is provided with:
 - a. processing for selecting said excitation line groups and said sense line groups, and receiving said amplitude signal from said amplification detection circuit and said phase signal from said phase detection circuit;
 - b. processing for calculating coordinate data of the position of said coordinate indicator on the basis of said inputted amplitude signal;
 - c. processing for extracting an amplitude signal of an induction signal induced to a sense line having a specific positional relation with the position of said coordinate indicator from said amplitude signal, as a height detection signal;
 - d. processing for correcting said height detection signal by said coordinate data and calculating height data of the position of said coordinate indicator;
 - e. processing for extracting a phase signal of a induction signal induced to a sense line having a specific positional relation with the position of said coordinate indicator from said phase signal, as a switch detection phase signal;
 - f. processing for correcting said switch detection phase signal by said height data and calculating a switch phase signal; and
 - g. processing for judging the state of switches of said coordinate indicator by said switch phase

signal.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

FIG. 1

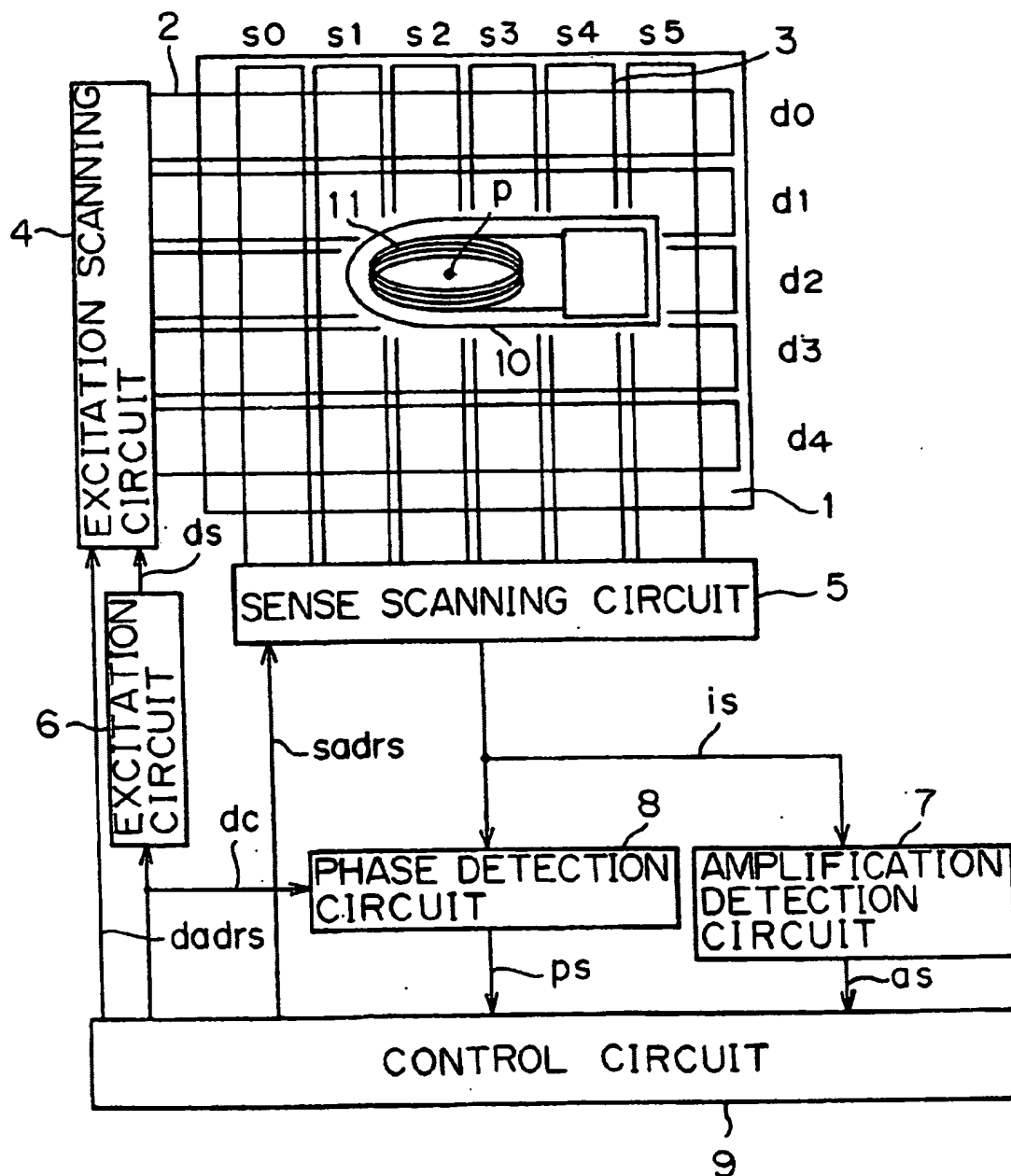


FIG. 2

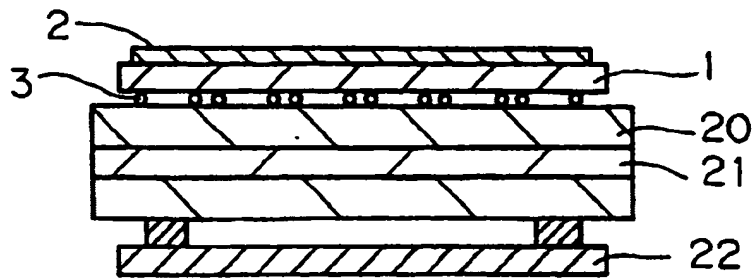


FIG. 3

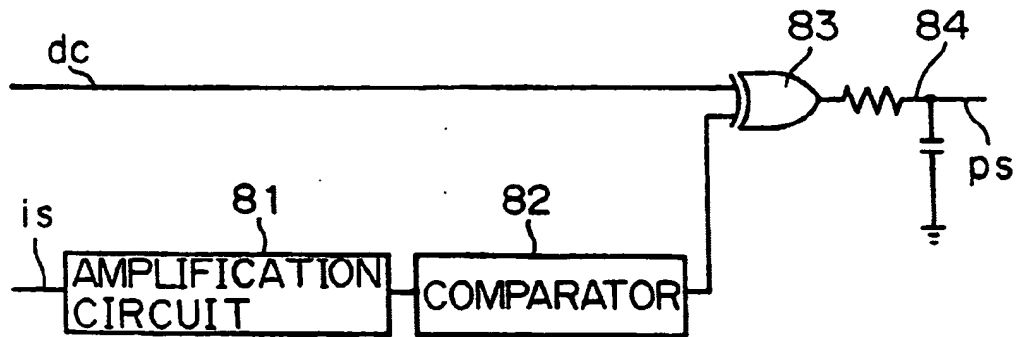


FIG. 4

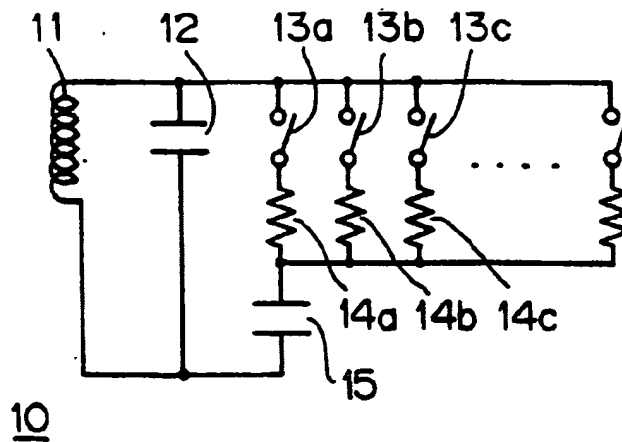


FIG. 5

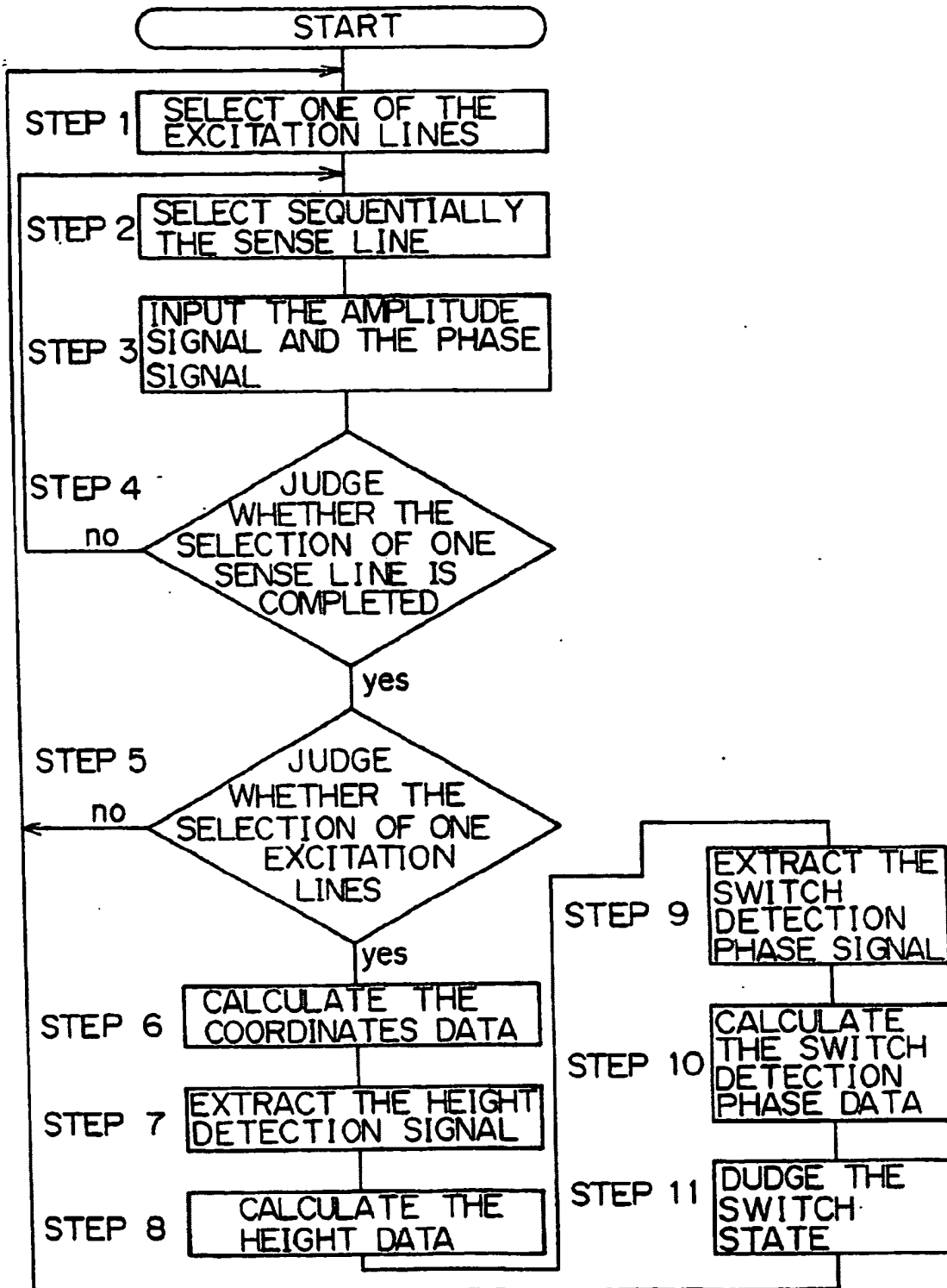
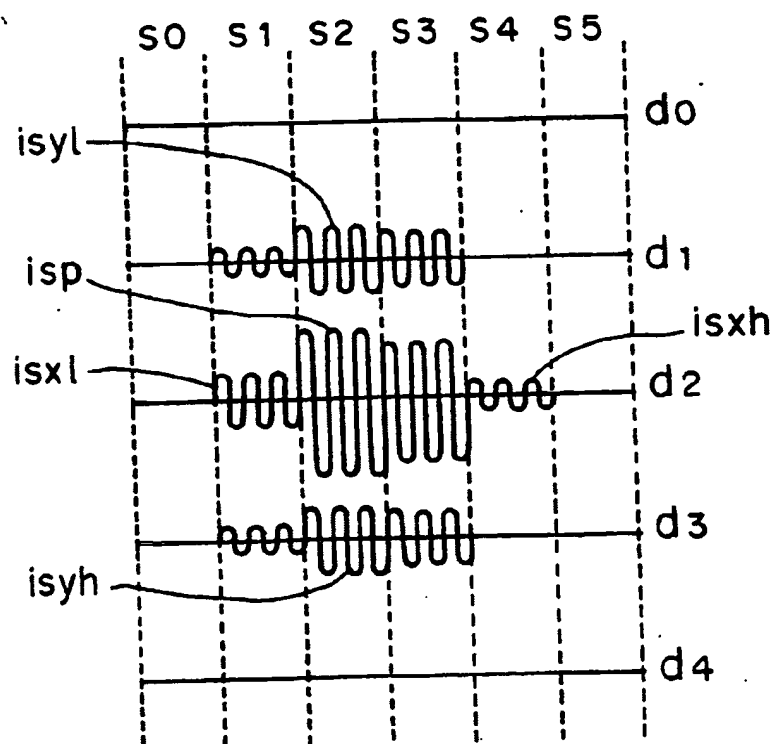
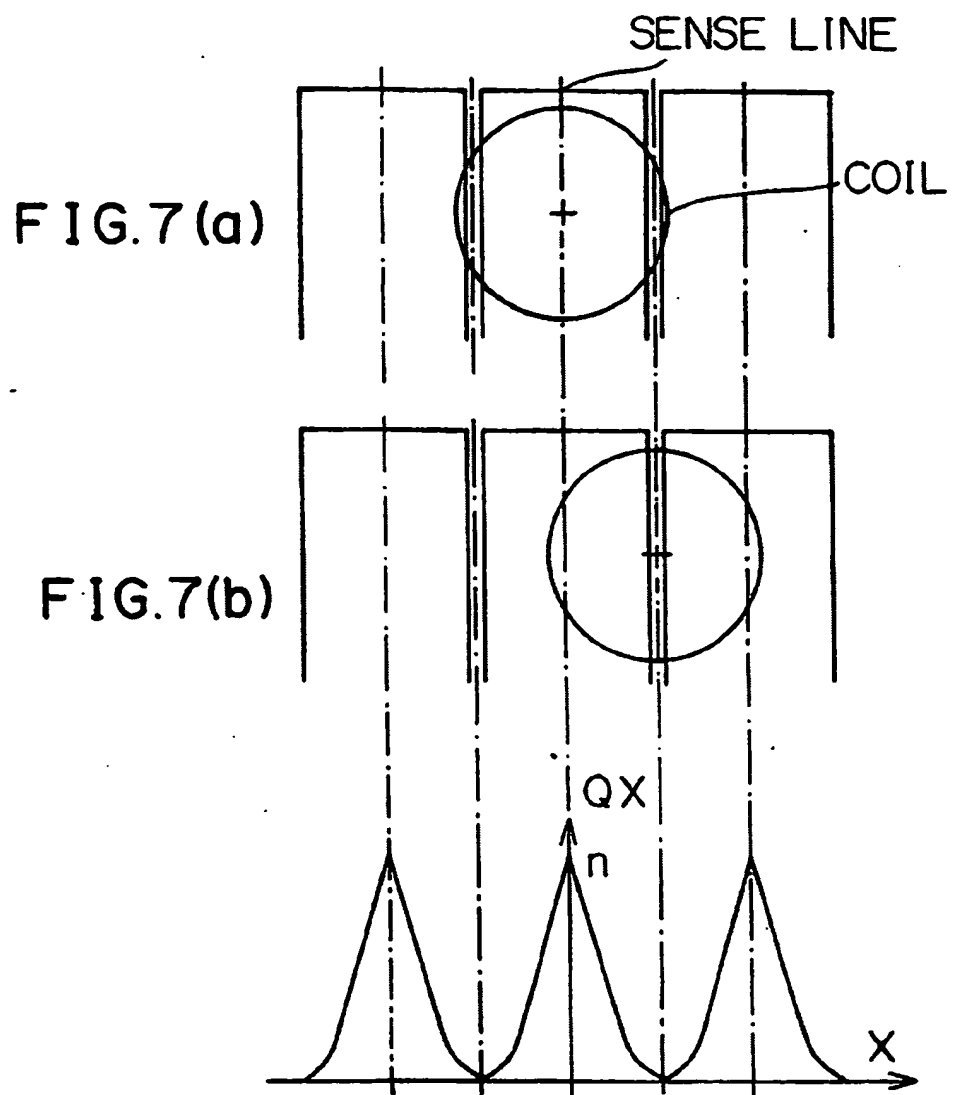


FIG. 6





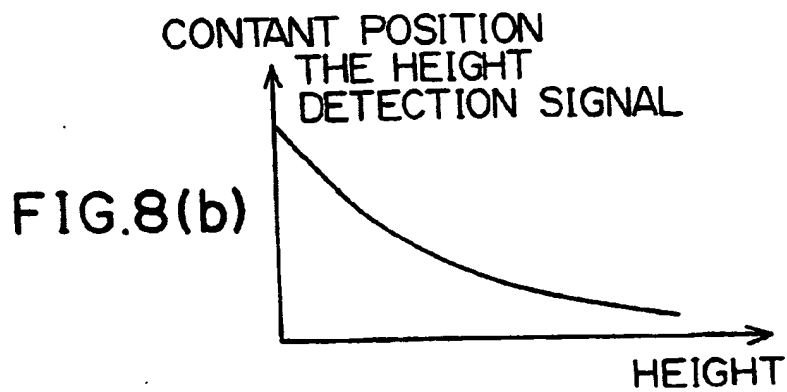
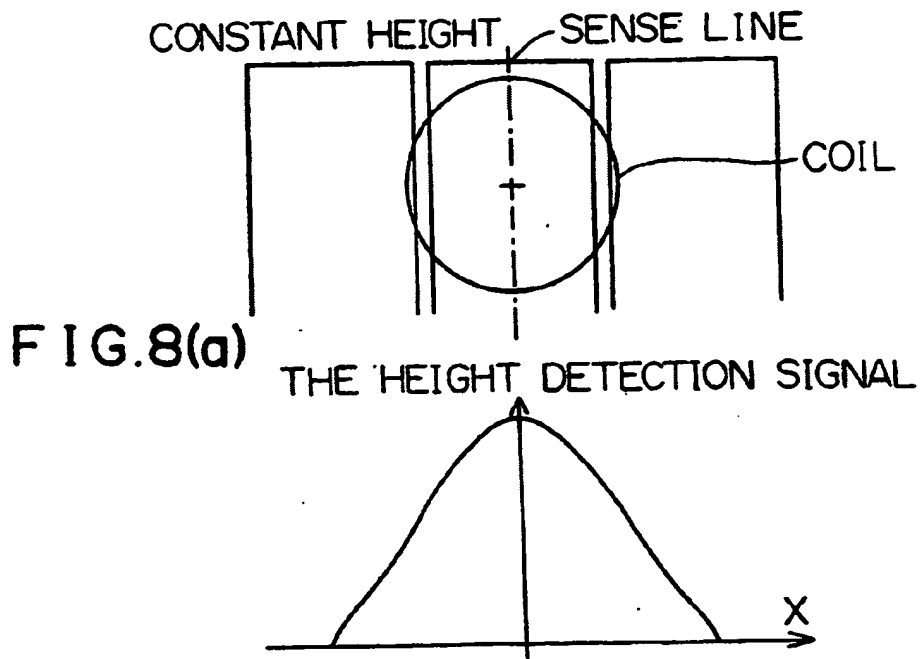


FIG. 9

THE CONVERSION TABLE OF
THE HEIGHT DETECTION SIGNAL

| Q X | CORRECTION QUANTITY |
|-----|------------------------|
| 0 | 33 |
| 1 | 33 |
| 2 | 33 |
| | |
| 20 | 27 |
| | |
| 255 | 0 |

Q X →

FIG. 10

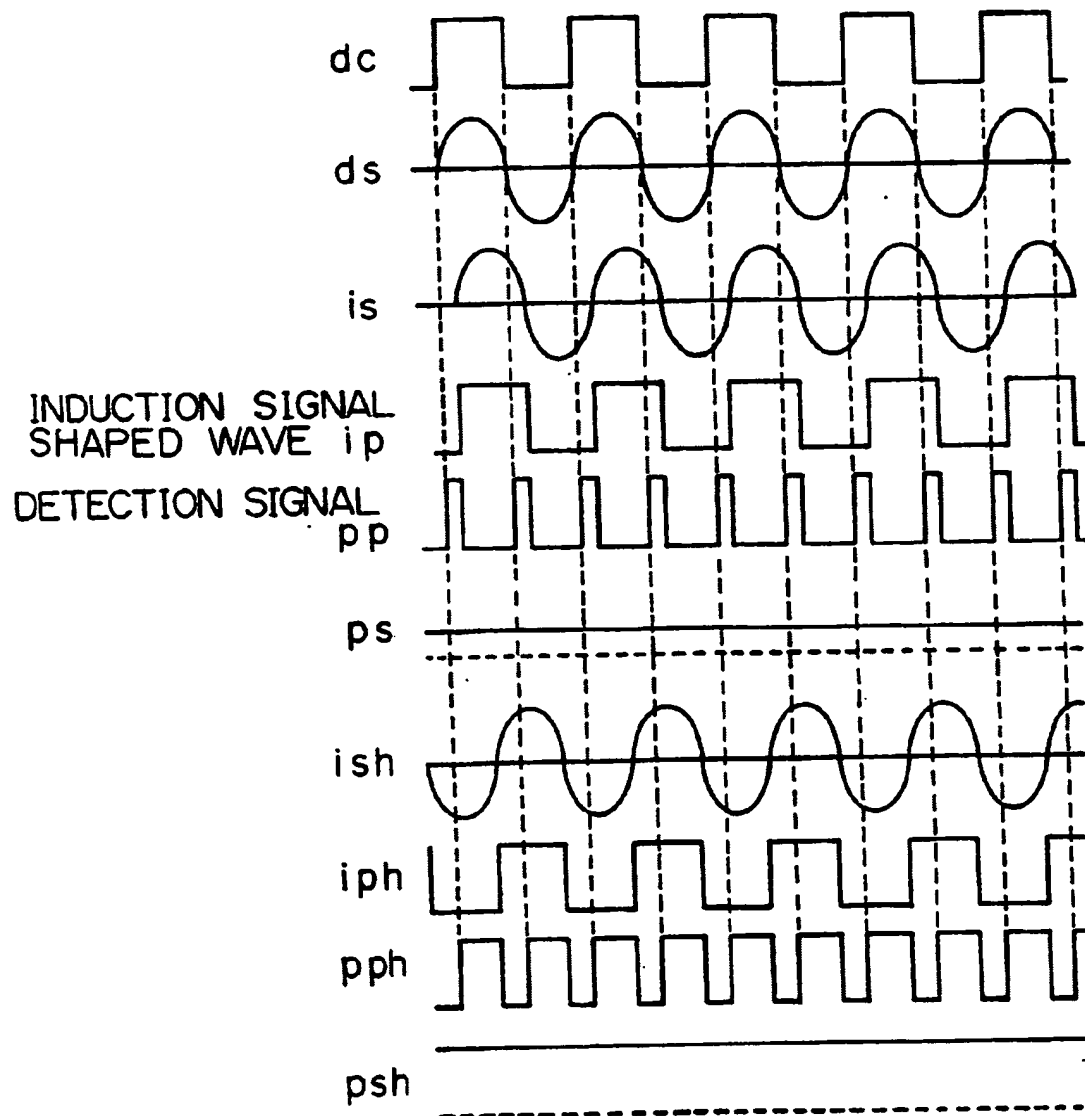


FIG. 11

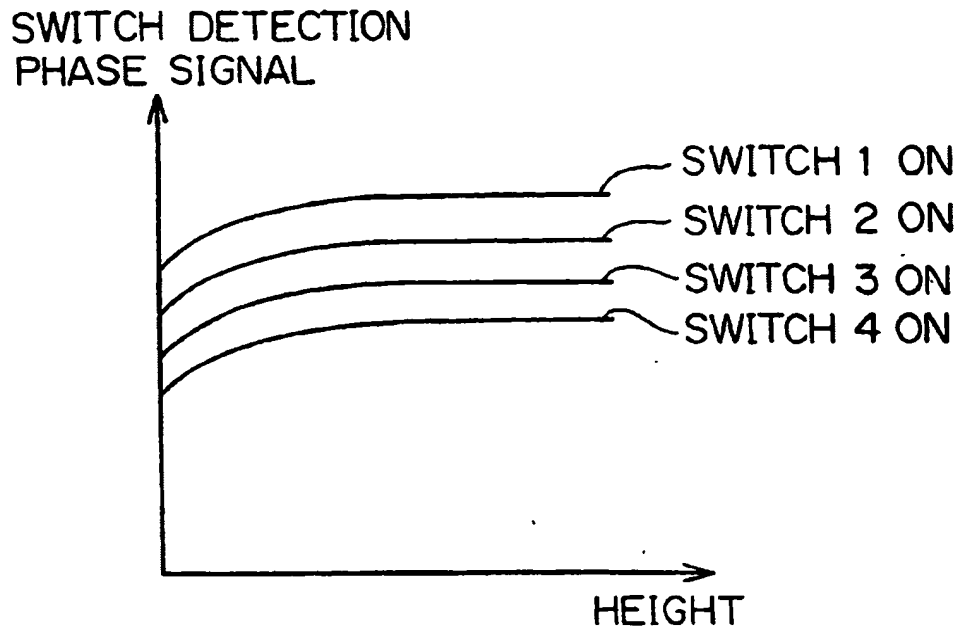


FIG. 12

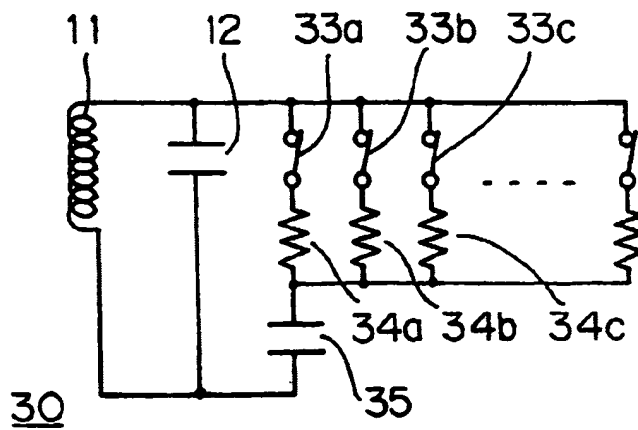


FIG. 13

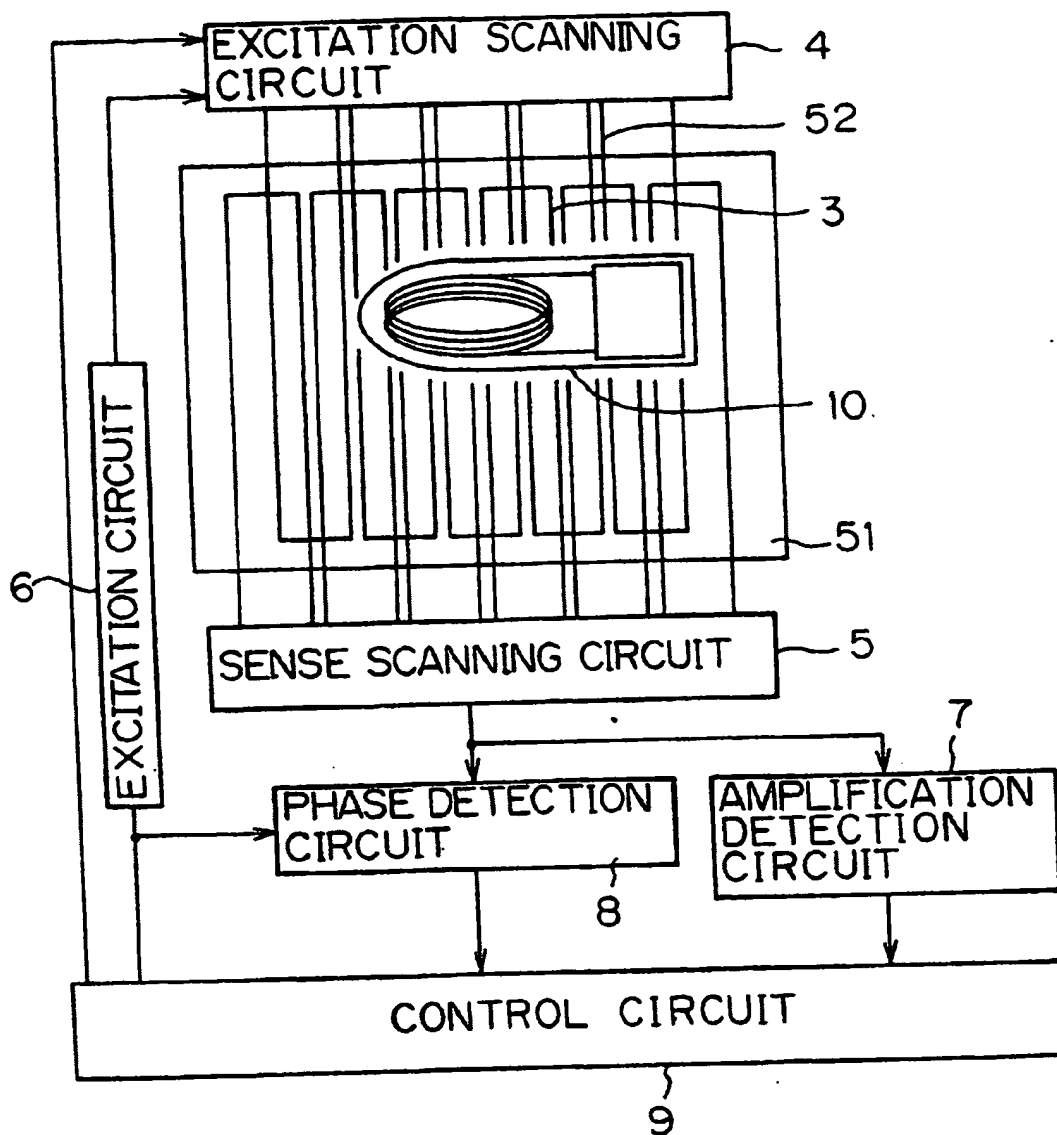


FIG. 14(a)

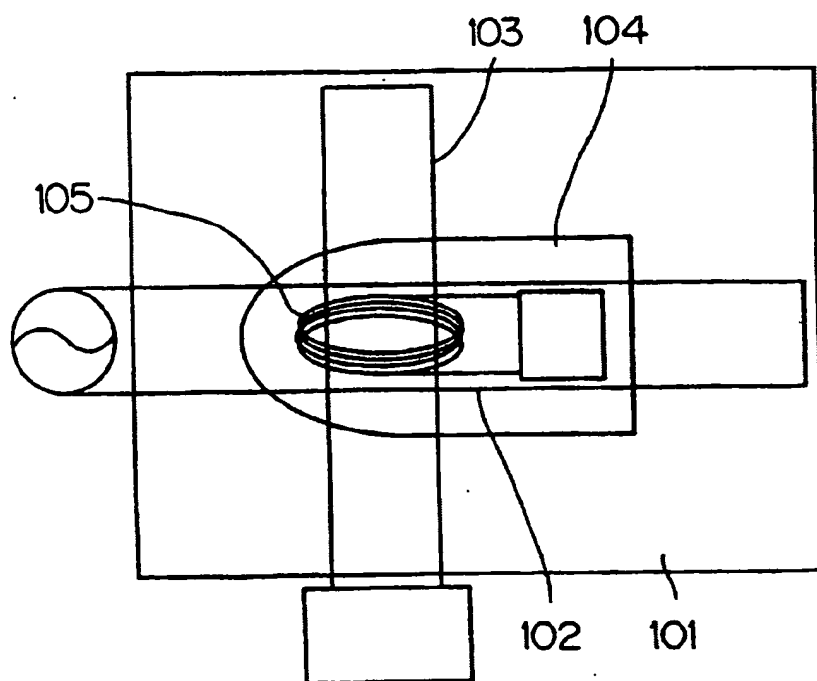
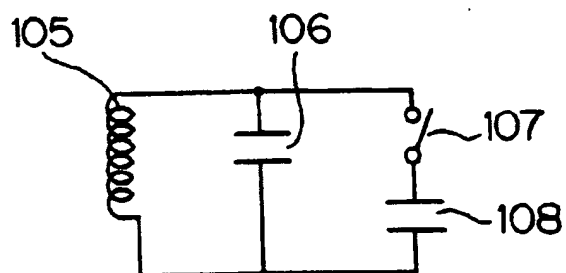


FIG. 14(b)





Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



Publication number: **0 461 614 A3**

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

Application number: 91109565.1

Int. Cl.⁵: **G06K 11/16**

Date of filing: 11.06.91

Priority: 12.06.90 JP 153330/90

Date of publication of application:
18.12.91 Bulletin 91/51

Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

Date of deferred publication of the search report:
04.03.92 Bulletin 92/10

Applicant: **SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.**

31-1, Kamaido 6-chome Koto-ku
Tokyo 136(JP)

Inventor: Morita, Yoshiyuki
c/o Seiko Instruments Inc., 31-1, Kamaido
6-chome
Koto-ku, Tokyo(JP)

Representative: Fleuchaus, Leo, Dipl.-Ing. et al
Melchiorstrasse 42
W-8000 München 71(DE)

Wireless coordinate reader and switch state detection system for coordinate Indicator.

In a wireless coordinate reader a switch circuit, which is formed by connecting a plurality of series circuits each consisting of a switch (13a, 13b, 13c ...) and a resistor (14a, 14b, 14c ...) in parallel with each other and connecting a capacitor (15) in series with one of the ends of this parallel circuit, is connected in parallel with a resonance circuit consisting of a coil (11) and a capacitor (12) to constitute a coordinate indicator (10). The coordinate reader comprises an amplification detection circuit (7) for detecting the

amplitude of an induction signal (is) induced on a sense line, a phase detection circuit (8) for detecting the phase, and a control circuit (9) for judging the state of switches of the coordinate indicator (10) from the detected amplitude signal (as) and phase signal (ps). The amplitude of a specific induction signal (is) is corrected by coordinate data while using it as height data. The switch state is judged after the phase signal (ps) is corrected in order to detect correctly the switch state.

FIG. 1

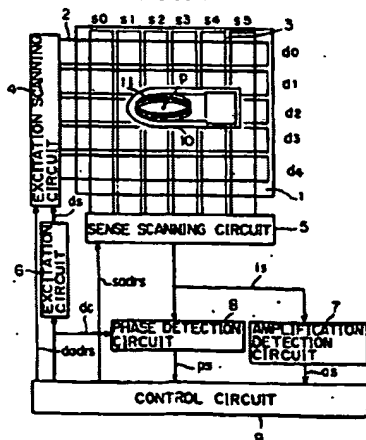
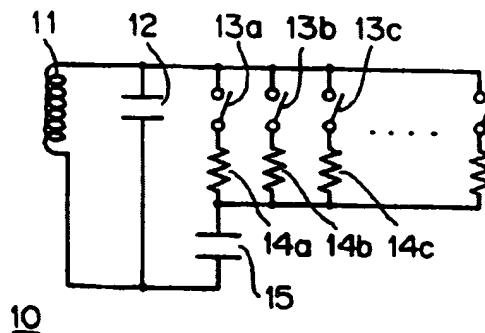


FIG. 4



EP 0 461 614 A3



European
Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 10 9565

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claims | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5) |
|---|---|--|---|
| A | EP-A-0 254 297 (WACOM COMPANY, LTD.) " abstract; figures 7,10 " | 1,2 | G 06 K 11/16 |
| A | EP-A-0 307 667 (WACOM COMPANY, LTD.) " abstract; figure 1 " | 1,2 | |
| A | EP-A-0 259 841 (WACOM COMPANY, LTD.) " abstract; figures 1,3 " | 1,2 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) |
| | | | G 06 K |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Berlin | | Date of completion of search 28 November 91 | Examiner ZOPF K |
| <div><div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention</div><div>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons A: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div></div> | | | |